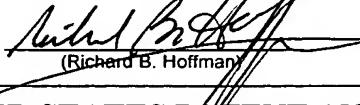




1725
JFW

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to:
MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA
22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: May 18, 2004

Signature: 

(Richard B. Hoffman)

Docket No.: 30151/38183
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Bernd Lohmuller et al.

Application No.: 10/069,302

Art Unit: 1725

Filed: May 10, 2002

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For: ANNEALING PLANT

AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION

MS Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

In response to the Office Action mailed February 18, 2004, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 8 of this paper.